

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 009727

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/11/2015

TAGS: [KJUS](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: GOC,S EFFORTS TO CLARIFY CNRR,S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Classified By: Ambassador William B. Wood.

Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

-----  
SUMMARY  
-----

1. (C) President Alvaro Uribe and National Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CNRR) President Eduardo Pizarro warned during the CNRR's official launch on October 4 that the commission would probably fall short in its efforts to give reparations to all victims. The commission will hold its first closed door meeting on October 19)20 to define its regulations and identify the criteria for the selection of the two remaining commission representatives. CNRR sources reported that the GOC authorized 1.5 billion pesos (approximately USD 700,000.00) for the commission's budget next year, but the challenge will be finding the necessary funds for the remainder of this year. The Netherlands has agreed to pay for the salaries of three of the commission's five civil society members. Meanwhile, the CNRR is trying to garner financial support from other international donors and the private sector. End Summary.

-----  
CREATING REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS  
-----

2. (C) President Alvaro Uribe and CNRR President Eduardo Pizarro warned during the CNRR's official launch on October 4 that it would probably fall short in its efforts to give reparations to all victims. Uribe asserted that "total reparation will be impossible to achieve" because suffering transcends material compensation. He added that "only remorse on the part of the victimizers can guarantee that the current situation of violence is not repeated." Pizarro stated that one cannot believe there will be exceptionally large sums available to pay reparations to the victims of such a prolonged conflict, but the commission will try its best so a significant number can receive reparations. He clarified that the funds would come primarily from the perpetrators and the rest from the national budget and the international community.

3. (C) Pizarro said the CNRR is not a truth commission. He explained, however, that the commission could offer a "historic reconstruction" of the paramilitary phenomenon that could be broadly distributed and through which victims could feel there has been a "moral condemnation."

-----  
FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: REGULATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP  
-----

4. (C) The CNRR will initially define its regulations and identify the criteria for the selection of the commission's two remaining representatives in its first closed door meeting on October 19)20. The importance of defining promptly the CNRR's regulations is not only to clarify its vast responsibility of assisting in ensuring reparations and promoting reconciliation between victims and perpetrators, but also to finalize the executive branch's over two month-long effort to conclude draft regulation to implement the Justice and Peace (J&P) law. Emboffs were told that the commission has been working closely with the executive branch on the reparations language of this decree and hopes to use the mid-October meeting to agree on the text.

5. (C) The CNRR is composed of six government officials and seven civil society members; two of the civil society victims' representatives have yet to be named. CNRR sources told us that the commission has decided to address the issue of the criteria for the selection of the victims' representatives in the first general meeting because of its sensitivity. The commission has already received many applications from interested organizations and members told Emboffs that various pressure groups are making the process difficult.

-----  
NEXT STEPS  
-----

6. (C) During its initial months, the commission is expected

to begin working on naming key administrative staff, organizing a forum, preparing a first report on the paramilitary phenomenon, collecting information from various sources, and evaluating reparations and reinsertion results. CNRR sources told us that the commission would probably name the Director of the Peace and Reconciliation Office in Medellin, Gustavo Villegas, as the CNRR's General Coordinator. This position will oversee the commission's reparations, reconciliation, and institutional strengthening groups. CNRR sources say that there is "general informal consensus" that Villegas would be the best candidate for the job given his excellent performance in Medellin and his impressive credentials, but they warned that his nomination is being kept close hold until later in the year because of Medellin's reluctance to let him go. The commission plans to organize a national and international forum on reinsertion, reparations, and reconciliation. The international forum is expected to take place in early November. In its first report on the paramilitary phenomenon, it hopes to collect and systemize information from departments, municipalities, the Catholic Church, NGOs, international organizations, and others with knowledge about "collective reparations."

-----  
CNRR'S PROJECTED FUNDS  
-----

17. (C) CNRR sources said that the GOC authorized 1.5 billion pesos (approximately USD 700,000.00) for the commission's budget next year, but the challenge will be finding the necessary funds for the remainder of this year. The Netherlands has agreed to pay for the salaries of three of the five civil society members in the commission. Meanwhile, the CNRR is trying to garner financial support from other international donors and the private sector.

WOOD